



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

May 20, 2016

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to conduct forested habitat restoration treatments on approximately 372 acres of the Blackfoot Clearwater WMA (BCWMA), in Missoula County. Forest restoration would focus on returning forest conditions to within the historic range of variability by mimicking natural disturbance typical of the forest type and disturbance regime. The treatments would enhance aspen habitats, open up canopy for improved forage production, and improve forest resiliency by reducing fire risk and beetle infestation risk. Treatments would include salvage logging of mountain pine beetle infected trees, commercial thinning, fuels reduction (thinning, piling, and burning), prescribed burning, and removal of encroaching conifers within aspen clones.

FWP has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) this proposal. This EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning May 20).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (information above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2016.

A field tour explaining and touring part of the project area will be held on May 24, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (meet at the Boyd Ranch Headquarters on the BCWMA). For further information on the tour, please contact wildlife biologist Scott Eggeman at phone 406-531-6759 or seggeman@mt.gov.

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for this proposed timber action, and tentatively, FWP will ask the Commission to render its decision on this proposal at its July 14th meeting in Helena.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Arnold', written in a cursive style.

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr